



May 28, 1991

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INSIGHT/ON SITE -- June 7, 8, 9, 1991

Nine area artists and a dance company will use the south side of The Cleveland Museum of Art and the adjacent Fine Arts Garden as the setting for outdoor art installations and dance performances during the festivities opening the Museum's 75th anniversary celebrations, Friday, June 7, through Sunday, June 9. The artists were selected in a Museum-sponsored competition, **Insight/On Site**, open to artists living in the 13-county area of Ohio's Western Reserve. Eighty-five artists submitted proposals for **Insight/On Site**, which is made possible by a grant from The Cleveland Foundation.

Selections were made by a seven-member panel of jurors: Susan Channing, Director, SPACES; Kathleen Coakley, Director, Committee for Public Art; Carl Floyd, Chairman, Sculpture Department, Cleveland Institute of Art; Constance Hightower, Manager, Bureau of Cultural Art, Division of Recreation, City of Cleveland; Tom Hinson, Curator of Contemporary Art, The Cleveland Museum of Art; Janus Small, Executive Director, New Organization for the Visual Arts; and Marjorie Talalay, Executive Director, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art.

The selected artists and their works are:

1) Anna Arnold - Outdoor Portrait Gallery

Anna Arnold, who lives in South Euclid, is known for her imaginative, often playful, and vividly colored acrylic portraits of contemporary public figures. For this project she used works of art in the Museum's collection as inspiration for five portraits (including one of herself)

painted on plywood and mounted on stakes in a grove of trees northeast of the Lagoon. On the back of each portrait is a photograph of its Museum model. Her interpretation of Elvis Presley, as an example, is modeled on a Museum portrait of an 18th-century French nobleman.

A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, Arnold has exhibited her works in numerous galleries in Ohio, including the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, SPACES, and Cuyahoga Community College's Metro Art Gallery.

2) Abraham Bruckman - BIG ART

Bruckman, who lives in Parma Heights, will wrap the frieze on the top of the Museum's 1916 building with a 5-foot wide band of bright pink plastic-laminated fabric, which will run along the east, south, and west sides of the building. The artist compares his band to a ribbon around a gift box, an appropriate symbol of the Museum's 75th birthday celebration.

Bruckman holds degrees in architecture and theater from Kent State University. He produces set designs and props for local theaters and also works as a visual display artist for The May Company.

3) Micheal Costello - Earthen Columns/Containers

Just west of the fountain in the Fine Arts Garden, Cleveland Heights artist Micheal Costello will build 40 columns of earth about 40 inches high and 12 inches in diameter, in which he will imbed wildflower seeds and personal messages and objects contributed by spectators, who are invited to help construct the columns. As the columns of soil erode, their contents will be exposed, and the buried seeds may germinate.

Costello teaches art at University School's Upper School in Hunting Valley. He works in various media, but prefers to design site-specific sculpture.

4) Joan Damankos - The Way of Pervading Unity

Cleveland Heights artist Joan Damankos will run a 24-inch wide strip of reflective silver mylar, which she describes as a "river of light," from a terrace at Euclid Avenue across the grounds and Lagoon of the Fine Arts Garden to the south steps of the Museum. Where the mylar strip begins, she will lay squares of colored tile, representing both the colors of the spectrum and the city's ethnic and cultural diversity. The work expresses her belief that art can bring people together, creating understanding between people of differing backgrounds.

Damankos, who studied at Cooper School of Art and the Cleveland Institute of Art, is primarily a painter and draftsman. Her first outdoor sculpture won an award in last year's University School Centennial Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition.

5) Paula Dubaniewicz - Lookouts/Lookins

Bath artist Paula Dubaniewicz's installation, near the sycamore grove on the east side of the Lagoon, consists of three large, ornately decorated gilt wood frames arranged in an arc and positioned so that passersby can frame their own views of The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Fine Arts Garden, and other nearby landmarks, such as Severance Hall and Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church.

A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, Dubaniewicz is a designer of site-specific sculpture and architectural installations. Her most recent project was for an outdoor reading garden for the Summit County Public Library.

6) Tom Evert Dance Company

Cleveland's nationally acclaimed dance company will perform on Friday, June 7, from 6 to 7 pm; on Saturday, June 8, from 6 to 7 pm; and on Sunday, June 9, from 2 to 3 pm. Each hour-long performance will begin at the Museum's south steps and proceed around the Lagoon.

7) James Pernotto - Paradiso

In a large willow tree on the west side of the Lagoon, Youngstown artist James Pernotto will hang nine large plastic and aluminum geodesic spheres, along with chimes, prisms, and mirrors that reflect light and move with the breezes, creating an atmosphere conducive to contemplation and reflection. The title of his work is taken from Dante's *Paradiso*, in which Beatrice guides the poet through the different spheres of paradise.

Pernotto is a critically acclaimed painter, sculptor, printmaker, and papermaker. Curator of prints and drawings at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, he also teaches printmaking at Youngstown State University.

8) Martha Posner - Prayer Gate

With help from volunteers and the public, Beachwood artist Martha Posner will assemble a circular structure of interwoven branches, twigs, and vines, about 1 to 3 inches thick, 6 feet tall, and 18 feet in diameter, with a 5-foot wide opening in the center, in a small grove of trees northwest of the Lagoon. Beginning June 7, the public are invited to tie to the prayer gate handwritten wishes, prayers, or other tokens of peace and good will. Inspired by similar rituals in African, Japanese, Native American, and modern American culture (witness the yellow ribbons of the Persian Gulf War), the prayer gate is intended to be a vehicle on which all can focus their shared desires for peace.

Posner is a sculptor, part-time instructor in the young people's classes at The Cleveland Museum of Art, and volunteer coordinator of art programs for NOVA, the New Organization for the Visual Arts.

9) **Penny Rakoff - The Fauve Landscape**

Cleveland artist Penny Rakoff, assisted by Akron photographer Richmond Haire, will transform a small garden with sycamore trees on the southeast side of the Lagoon into a landscape reminiscent of the boldly colored works of the early 20th-century French Fauve painters, such as Edouard Vuillard, whose Under the Trees is in the Museum's collection. The artists will wrap the trunks and branches of the trees with bright colored lycra fabric, paint the benches, and cover the grounds with painted outdoor carpet.

Rakoff is associate professor of art and coordinator of the photography program at the University of Akron. Haire also teaches photography at the University of Akron.

10) **Lyneise Williams - Voices of the Ancestors**

On a point on the northeast edge of the Lagoon, Cleveland artist Lyneise Williams will place a large African slit drum shaped like a boat (10 feet high, 20 feet long), with oars decorated with objects of ceremonial significance. The oars will move to the accompaniment of recorded sounds of drums and percussion instruments. The drum, which Africans believe houses ancestral spirits, is struck on important occasions, and in the artist's opinion, is singularly appropriate to celebrate the anniversary of the Museum, which is itself a repository for the genius of our ancestors. On the first day of the weekend celebration, the public are invited to strike the drum; on subsequent days, the drum will be the focus of performances by African-American drummers and dancers.

Williams, who moved to Cleveland from New York last year, works in various media. **Insight/On Site** marks the first public exhibition of her work in Cleveland.

A souvenir brochure for **Insight/On Site**, with a map showing the location of each artist's work, will be available during the anniversary weekend, June 7 to 9.

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INSIGHT/ONSIGHT

On June 3rd, 1991, Martha Posner along with a small core group will begin construction of a "Prayer Gate Structure". This temporary site-specific installation for Insight/Onsight is part of The Cleveland Museum of Art's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

The Prayer Gate Structure itself will be a circular structure of branches 1" to 3" thick, approximately 6' 1/2 tall and 18' in diameter. There will be one opening approximately 5' wide. The Prayer Gate incorporates and shares the universal gesturing of focusing and offering positive thoughts.

Native Americans have mentally "charged" a thought into a colorful tobacco filled fabric called "Prayer Ties" which they hang in special places. People from all over the world come to Jerusalem to stuff hand-written messages and prayers into cracks of "The Western Wall". Female Japanese children have participated in the "Star Ceremony", wherein young girls transfer their wishes to yellow ribbons and hang them on trees. It is interesting to observe our own culture's adaptation of ribbons and trees for peace.

I personally believe in the power of positive thoughts. It is my intention that the Prayer Gate act as a vehicle for us all to focus our collective visualization for peace.

Beginning June 7 and continuing through June 9, the people of Cleveland are invited and encouraged to hang their handwritten messages and offerings on the "Gate". String and rope will be provided for the hanging of personal objects that have been "charged" with good thoughts. The community is also welcome to assist in the beginning construction, June 3-6.